

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

POLICY DECISION

POLICY TITLE: Mainstem Columbia River POLICY NUMBER: C-3615
Spring Chinook Management and Allocation for
Non-Indian Fisheries, 2006-2007

Supersedes: C-3613 and C-3614

Effective Date: January 14, 2006

Termination Date: December 31, 2007

See Also:

Approved by: 
Commission Chair

Guiding Principles

- Meet conservation requirements for wild spring chinook and wild winter steelhead, including populations listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Manage non-Indian harvest of spring chinook within the provisions of the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement for upriver spring chinook.
- Manage harvest to meet hatchery escapement goals.
- Focus sport and commercial fisheries' allocation on harvest of hatchery fish by implementing live capture and release of unmarked spring chinook.

Fisheries Management Objectives

- Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available.
- Manage the mainstem Columbia River spring chinook fisheries with the intent to limit the wild winter steelhead impact to less than 2%.
- Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impact allocation to meet the objectives of both fisheries, i.e., upriver impact sharing adjustments in response to in-season information pertaining to catch and run size.
- Adjustments to the sport fishery may occur in-season if it is estimated the fishery will not continue through April. In-season adjustments may include such options as days/week and area closures.
- Recognize economic benefits of sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River.
- Provide for sport fisheries throughout the Columbia River downstream of McNary Dam, sport/tribal fisheries in the Snake River and upper Columbia River, and commercial and sport fisheries in select areas.

Allocation of Upriver Spring Chinook Impacts

The Director shall manage Columbia River non-Indian spring chinook fisheries that are covered by the allowable ESA upriver impact rate (currently 2%) based on the following allocation guidelines. The recreational fishery allocation should be 60% of the allowable impact rate with the remainder to the commercial fishery.

Delegation of Authority

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the Columbia River Compact process, to set seasons for sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River, and to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries.